

list of counties in Nebraska that list specifically the number of cases that were detected in your county, so you might want to refer to that later. During this time also over 1,400 Nebraska women died. And I really feel that it's time that the state take some measures to reduce this number. Breast cancer is also the number one cause of cancer deaths for women in Nebraska, in the United States it's the second leading cause, 45,000 deaths. There's a new case every 3 minutes and 1 woman dies every 12 minutes. It is estimated that mortality can be reduced at least 30 percent by early detection and aggressive follow-up, and radiologists can detect 92 percent of breast cancer through mammograms, while doctors only detect about 50 percent. Another statistic you might find interesting is that women in the ages of 50 to 75 years are at the greatest risk, and in Nebraska traditionally we have had the second lowest mammogram screening of those ages of all the states in the nation. I'd like to thank Senator Schimek for her work in this area and also as an introducer of the bill. And she introduced some legislation in 1991 to establish a statewide mammography program, really focusing on medically undeserved (sic) women whereas this bill stresses the mammogram coverage for insurance companies. I'd like to turn the rest of my time over to Senator Schimek, and she might like to add a few remarks. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Schimek, you have four and a half minutes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr, for choosing this as your priority bill. This bill does have quite a history, as Senator Stuhr mentioned. Back in 1989, when I came into the Legislature, Senator MacFarland and Senator Schellpeper had introduced a bill which would require insurance coverage of mammography. And at that time the bill did not even get out of committee, it never got on the floor, we didn't get to discuss it. So in 1990, once again, Senator MacFarland introduced a bill which I co-signed with him, which would have done the same thing. Senator MacFarland in that year also introduced LB 1111 which was an attempt to provide a statewide program of low dose mammography. After those two unsuccessful tries, and again the bills did not get out of committee, I became a little bit discouraged and went to a conference of national importance that a woman senator from Colorado was attending. And she told me that the same thing had happened in her state, and her solution to it was at least to try to find a program for low income women to be able to obtain mammography. So the next year, 1991,